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FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 1895.

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ON MARINE MOLLUSKS FROM THE PAMPEAN FORMATION.

It is known that D'Orbigny considered the pampas as a marine formation, Burmeister as a fluvio-lacustrine deposit. In a paper on the Lagoa dos patos, in 1885, I re-

ferred to conditions which I considered important for the study of such formations as the Pampean. All discussions hitherto lay great stress on the absence of marine fossils in the Pampean mud. But this fact itself seems to rest partly on the belief of Burmeister that marine organisms are not to be found in the formation.

Burmeister (Descr. Phys. Rep. Arg. II., 1876, p. 177) having seen fragments of an *Astræa* found at a depth of two meters at San Nicolas, and believing that their presence was due to some disturbance of the beds, said that it is not possible to understand how they could have reached the locality where they were found.

Burmeister's view, above cited, will be essentially modified by the announcement which I am able to make of the following list of marine shells received by me from the distinguished Argentine paleontologist, Dr. Florentino Ameghino. The specimens are from the 'formacion pampeana, piso belgranense', near La Plata.

Purpura hæmastoma L.
Nassa polygona Orb.
Bullia deformis King.
Olivancillaria auricularia Lam.
Voluta brasiliensis Sol.
Litorina flava King.
Litoridina australis Orb.
Crepidula fornicata? Lam.
Ostrea cristata Born.
Ostrea puelchana Orb.